



# Reconciling Gamebird Hunting & Biodiversity (REGHAB)

## INTRODUCTION

Gamebird hunting is an important socio-economic activity in Europe involving millions of people, euros and hectares. It can provide benefits to biodiversity through, e.g. the maintenance or management of habitats. However, it may also have negative implications for biodiversity through e.g. the illegal control of predators to maximise game numbers. The latter is a key conflict for nature conservation in Europe that is far from being solved. **REGHAB** provides a unique opportunity to take the first step towards reaching a stable, long-term solution across Europe.

## AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- 1- To provide a review on the costs and benefits of gamebird hunting to biodiversity in different hunting regimes;
- 2- To review the conflicts between raptor control and conservation in Europe within the context of predator-prey interactions, and address these conflicts in the context of the socio-economic value of hunting;
- 3- To evaluate and test methods of reducing these conflicts;
- 4- To identify critical areas where knowledge is lacking, and propose future research priorities.

## PARTNERS



## Raptors and gamebirds Wildlife and economic values of moorland



## APPROACH

**REGHAB** will review and summarise available information on the different aspects of the project, and will bring together all relevant stakeholders (including hunting and conservation organisations), in order to reach consensus on conclusions arising from that review. Additionally, a Multiple Criteria Decision Model will be applied to a specific biodiversity/gamebird conflict, as a test of the validity of decision modelling as a framework for the resolution of biodiversity/game conflicts throughout Europe.

## DELIVERABLES

**REGHAB** will provide the first comprehensive review of the socioeconomic value, the relationship between hunting management practices and wildlife, and the extent of raptor persecution of different hunting regimes in Europe. It also provides a framework for resolving hunting/conservation conflicts. Other than scientific papers and a document on research priorities for the future, **REGHAB** will deliver material for information dissemination to key stakeholders and general public (including a poster, leaflets, a web page and a booklet with the main conclusions of the project), and three workshops, the last of which will be public (an international conference).



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